

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1, 6-23, 25-29, 34-36, 38-39, 41, 56-57, 61, 63, 69-80, 97, and 99-113 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1, 29, 38-39, 41, 56-57, 61, 63, 69-80, and 99-113 are independent.

All pending claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,112,186 (hereinafter "Bergh") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,227,874 (hereinafter "Von Kohorn"), in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,876,983 (hereinafter "Goddard"), in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,598,026 (hereinafter "Ojha").

Further, the Examiner indicates that Applicants' claim of priority to U.S. Patent No. 6,754,636 is not valid, in as much as the pending claims are alleged to not be supported under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph by the priority document.

Upon entry of this amendment, which is respectfully requested, claims 102-103 will be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1, 6, 8-12, 16, 19-23, 25-29, 34-36, 38-39, 41, 56, 63, 69-80, 97, 99-101, 108-109, and 111 will be amended for clarification purposes, and new claim 114 will be added. No new matter is believed to be introduced by this amendment, and the Examiner has already conducted presumably numerous searches directed to the concepts recited by the currently pending claims.

Applicants hereby respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims in light of the amendments and remarks provided herein and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.112.

II. The Examiner's Rejections - §103(a): Bergh, Von Kohorn, Goddard, Ojha

Applicants respectfully note that support for the pending claims may be found throughout the priority document identified by U.S. Patent No. 6,754,636. Applicants direct the Examiner's attention, for example, to Col. 5, lines 23-27, Col. 7, lines 32-35, Col 7, line 48 to Col. 8, line 30, Col. 12, lines 29-54, Col. 18, lines 44-47, Col. 21, lines 22-55, FIG. 12A, FIG. 12B, Col. 31, line 32 to Col. 33, line 4.

While Applicants believe that the pending claims are patentable over both Goddard and Ojha, either alone or in any combination (*e.g.*, in combination with Bergh and/or Von Kohorn), Applicants note that the priority claim to U.S. Patent No. 6,754,636 renders any rejections based on these references (such as the current §103(a) rejections) moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the §103(a) rejections of the pending claims be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

At least for the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, *or in better form for appeal*, and the Examiner's early re-examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

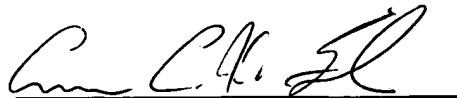
Alternatively, if there remain any questions regarding the present application or the cited reference, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is cordially requested to contact Carson C.K. Fincham at telephone number 203-461-7017 or via electronic mail at cfincham@walkerdigital.com, at the Examiner's convenience.

IV. Petition for Extension of Time to Respond

Applicants hereby petition for a **one-month extension** of time and authorize the charge of **\$60.00** to our Deposit Account No. 50-0271. Please charge any additional fees that may be required for this Response, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0271.

If any other and/or additional extension of time is required, please grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this Response timely, and please charge any fee for such extension to Deposit Account No. 50-0271.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date